

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

# 5 J.W.  
5.1

3618

02/26/02

PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE  
IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL  
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE  
ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR  
PATENTS , WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 ON



January 31, 2002  
(Car)  
Antony Hala 1-31-02  
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Willi Wissel  
Serial No. : 10/005,261  
Filing Date : December 3, 2001  
For : METHOD OF PRODUCING A  
STEERING WHEEL SKELETON AND  
VEHICLE STEERING WHEEL  
Art Unit : 3618  
Examiner : Not Assigned  
Attorney Docket : TRW(ASG) 5988

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2002

GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97 and \$1.98, and in compliance with CFR \$1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☒ Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR \$1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

- 1) ☐ A certification is given below,
- 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in \$1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
- 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.

- 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) \$180, or
- 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR \$1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 10/005,261

Page -3-

- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.
5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
6. Concise Explanation (if needed):
- (1) ☒ Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

U.S. Patent No. 3,714,844

U.S. Patent No. 4,359,911

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

### Patent No.

### Relevance

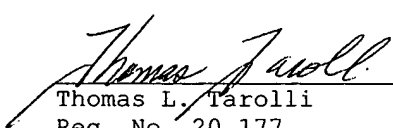
FR 512 755

Discloses a one-piece steering wheel made of a bent sheet metal part (cf. Figures).

DE 197 24 073 A1

See attached English abstract.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas L. Tarolli  
Reg. No. 20,177

TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL,  
TUMMINO & SZABO L.L.P.  
1111 Leader Building  
526 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44114-1400  
Phone: (216) 621-2234  
Fax: (216) 621-4070